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AMERICAN VAMPIRE



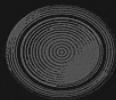
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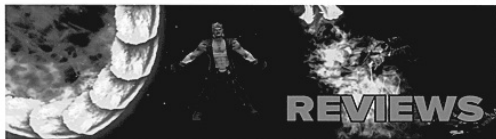
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THE GRAY TRADER

SCOTT SNYDER writer RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE artist

DAVE MCCALC JARED K. FLETCHER RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE cover

GREGORY LOCKARD art MARK COYLE edit

AMERICAN VAMPIRE created by SCOTT SNYDER & RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

"THE STRIKE OCCURRED
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT,
AROUND TWO FORTY IN
THE AFTERNOON."









SCOUGHIE
UNK...PLEASE--
SCOUGHIE

SHHH, THAT
WAS DIMES. TRICK
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE
GIRL. HURTS LIKE HELL
BUT WON'T REALLY
KILL A MAN...



...UNLESS YOU
GET HIM IN THE
TENDER FACE.



NOW I'LL
ASK YOU ONE
LAST TIME.
WHO AM I?



SCOUGH'S YOU'RE ABILENA
BOOK. FORMER SCOUGHIE
SENIOR AGENT OF THE VASSALS
OF THE MORNING STAR.
RESIGNED IN 194--



AW, YOU'RE
BEING POLITE, NOT
RESIGNED...

EXPELLED
IN 1949.

GOOD...

...NOW
OPEN THAT
BRIEFCASE
YOU WERE
CARRYING.

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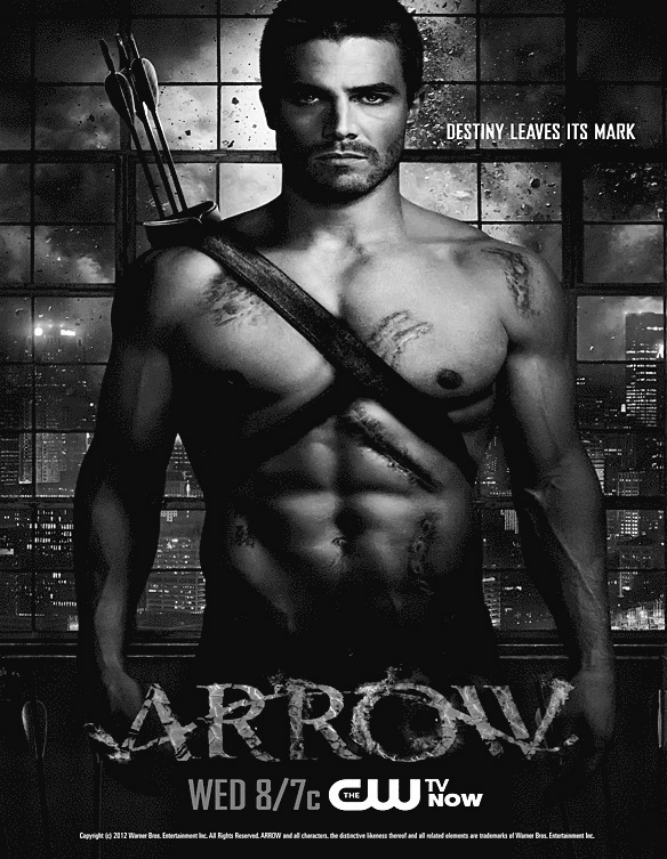
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PLEASE, I WAS
JUST SENT TO GET
INFORMATION. FROM
YOU. THE INJECTABLE.
IT'S JUST TRUTH SERUM,
AMOBARBITO. I
WASN'T GOING TO
HURT YOU.



DESTINY LEAVES ITS MARK

ARROW

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DON'T, DON'T
KILL ME, PLEASE, I
JUST WANTED SOME
ANSWERS. I'M
DESPERATE,
I--



YOU WANT
SOME SWEET
TOAST?



YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO--



I GET TOO FEW VISITORS
THESE DAYS TO KILL A
CHANCE AT DECENT
CONVERSATION.

WELL
THANK YOU,
I R--

AND I HAVE FAITH
IN YOUR CONVERSATIONAL
ABILITIES, AS I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE. I'M SORRY, MY
EYES AREN'T GOOD ANYMORE.
I COULDN'T SEE YOU WHEN I
SHOT YOU, BUT WHEN I GOT
UP CLOSE--I KNEW
YOUR BLOOD.

YES, YOU
KNEW MY
UNCLE.



WILL
BUNTING,
YOU LOOK
LIKE HIM.

MY NAME'S
GENE. WILL WAS MY
UNCLE. I ONLY KNEW HIM
THESE LAST FEW YEARS.
HE WAS SICK WHEN HE
BROUGHT ME INTO THE
FOLD TO BE HIS
REPLACEMENT.



TO US, TO HIS
FAMILY, HE DIED BACK
IN 1925. I ONLY LEARNED
ABOUT THE VASSALS,
ABOUT HOW THEY'D TAKEN
HIM IN TO BE BOOK-
KEEPER, ABOUT FIVE
YEARS AGO. I WAS
A JOURNALIST.

A WAR CORRESPONDENT,
BUT WITH NO WAR. I WAS IN
A BAD WAY, AND THEN, ONE
MORNING, I'M STANDING IN MY
KITCHEN, OPENING A BEER
FOR BREAKFAST, AND WHO'S
STANDING THERE BUT
UNCLE WILL.

SAYS HE
WAS A WAR
FOR ME TO
COVER.



"WELL...IT WASN'T LONG AFTER SWEET WAS RECRUITED, YOU PUT IN FOR A MISSION WITH HIM. HOBBS OBLIGED, THINKING YOU WERE OVER YOUR HATRED OF SWEET BY THEN..."

"...THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO PROVE SOME POINT, GOING BACK OUT INTO THE FIELD AFTER SO LONG, WITH HIM AT YOUR SIDE."

"BUT?"

"BUT...YOU WEREN'T OVER IT."

The new storyline "SNOW WHITE" begins with ISSUE #125!

FABLES

Written by *The New York Times* best-selling writer and Eisner Award-winner

BILL WILLINGHAM

Illustrated by

**MARK BUCKINGHAM
& STEVE LEIALOHA**

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going"

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YOU AND TOOK YOU
BACK FOR HELP."



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BATMAN

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A HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION
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2013

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THE GRAY
TRADER.

YES.

HOW
DID YOU
KN--

WHAT DO YOUR
SUPERIORS THINK
ABOUT YOUR
THEORY?

I HAVEN'T TOLD
THEM. IT'S MY OWN HUNCH.
BUT I HAVE EVIDENCE, FROM
SEISMIC DATA TO MORE OMINOUS
RECORDINGS LIKE COMMUNITIES
VANISHED OVERNIGHT. I CAN
TELL YOU ABOUT A SETTLEMENT
ON INDIAN LANDS NEAR
KAYENTA, ARIZ--

WHAT
DOES THIS
HAVE TO
DO WITH
ME?

THE BITE YOU
SUSTAINED IN THAT
INCIDENT WITH SWEET.
THE SPECIES YOU
ENCOUNTERED,
EVIDENCE SUGGESTS
THAT VICTIMS WHO
SURVIVE THE VENOM,
THEY SOMETIMES
HAVE VISIONS...

...VISIONS
OF THE FUTURE.
UNSETTLINGLY
ACCURATE PRE-
MONITIONS.

IS THAT
SOT

WELL, YOU'RE
THE ONLY PERSON
BITTEN BY ONE IN
ABOUT A THOUSAND
YEARS, SO IT'S HARD
TO KNOW, BUT THE
CASSANDRA
FOLKLORE...

YOU'RE HERE TO ASK ME
ABOUT THE FUTURE?
YOU MUST BE
DESPERATE.

I'M
SORRY. I
CAN'T HELP
YOU.

I KNOW
WHAT USING
THE ABILITY
DOES. I'VE
READ ABOUT
IT, I MEAN.
HOW IT
ALERTS
OTHERS...

BUT MRS. BOOK, IF
HE IS OUT THERE, THE GRAY
TRADER, IT MEANS THE END
OF THIS PLACE, IF WE DON'T
ACT. NOT THIS HOUSE. NOT
THIS STATE. THIS COUNTRY.
HE COULD ATTACK AT ANY
TIME. THE FORCES HE MIGHT
HAVE AMASSED ALREADY--

YOU DIDN'T
EAT YOUR
TOAST. BUT
I'M AFRAID IT'S
TIME FOR YOU
TO LEAVE.

MRS.
BOOK
I--

OF COURSE.
I'M SORRY I
BOTHERED
YOU.





"Just another notch in the belt of a team
that is one of the best around."

—Crayonline

"Scott Snyder has created a rich,
history-spanning mythology of bloodsuckers."

—USA Today

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"I can safely say that it is not only the best new Vertigo book, but quite possibly the best series of the year. Everything about it is near perfection."

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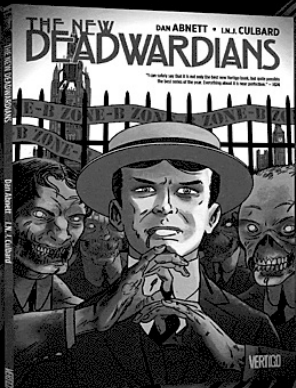
"It's a beautiful mash-up of an English period piece, vampire tale, and zombie epidemic story."

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YES,
I DID.

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SNYDER/ALBUQUERQUE/MURRAY

To Be
Continued In
2013!

VERTIGO CREATORS' WINTER READING PICKS

PETER MILLIGAN, writer of **HELLBLAZER** and **SHADE THE CHANGING MAN**



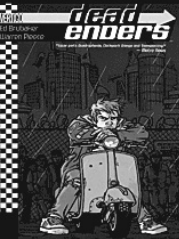
KILL YOUR BOYFRIEND. Because I really liked the title. The artwork is beautiful. And it reminds me of a good time. Or good times.

MIKE CAREY, co-creator and writer of **THE UNWRITTEN**



I know Vertigo isn't generally associated with superheroics—so it's sort of ironic that in Grant Morrison's **DOOM PATROL** they published the best superhero series of all time. **CRAWLING FROM THE WRECKAGE**, **THE PAINTING THAT ATE PARIS** and **GOING UNDERGROUND** are all masterpieces. And "The Soul of a New Machine" is probably the best refutation of Cartesian dualism you'll find in a comic. With brains in jars! Fighting! I defy anyone not to love this book.

LAUREN BEUKES, writer of "The Hidden Kingdom" in **FAIREST** #8-13



Ed Brubaker and Warren Pleece's **DEADENDERS** is about a group of no-good kids in a going-nowhere sector in a city ripped apart by a weird cataclysm, but it's really about pop songs and quantum physics and weird visions of a might-be world and love and ambition and a scooter race that's really an excuse to break out—of a quarantine suit, out of other people's expectations, out of a supposed destiny.



JEFF LEMIRE, creator of SWEET TOOTH and the upcoming TRILLIUM



Matt Kindt is one of my favorite cartoonists, and also one of my best friends, so I always recommend his amazing OGN from 2010, REVOLVER. Matt's incredible storytelling is on full display in this "end of the world/split-reality" genre mashup that features more of the gorgeous watercolor artwork that Matt brought to SWEET TOOTH last year with "The Taxidermist" storyline.



Adam Hughes, cover artist of FAIREST



I'm a big fan of the late Victorian/Edwardian period in British history. I dig vampires, when they don't sparkle too much. And I love love LOVE zombies to death. Thank goodness the Vertigo demons heeded my prayers and brought forth THE NEW DEADWARDIANS!



PETER GROSS, co-creator and artist of THE UNWRITTEN



I get way behind on my comic reading, so a while back I decided to wait to read all of SCALPED until it was out in trades. With the final volume coming out in November, I finally get my wish!

ON THE LEDGE



For hours now, I've been trying to come up with a good opener for this column, some expression to start off, a play on words, a pun, something clever. But the truth is, there are only two words to open this column with, and they are: "Thank you."

For three years now, you've followed us on our crazy journey, in the pages of AMERICAN VAMPIRE, for a collected total of forty-three issues, across more than eight hundred pages of comics. But more than issues or pages, we've traveled together, with these characters we've loved – Pearl and Skinner, Henry, Felicia, Gus and Cal – across time, through more than six decades of American history, across oceans and back, from the dusty plains of the Old West to the bright suburbs of the 1950s. It's been a wild ride so far, full of horrors and wonders, deaths and rebirths, Rafael and I couldn't be more grateful to you all for traveling these fictional roads with us.

I just want to make it absolutely crystal clear about the hiatus of this series (which starts with issue #34): this is not indefinite. In fact, it's a very short break Rafa and I are taking so that we can recharge and, more important, get far enough ahead on the coming stories to allow Rafa to draw more of the arcs in the second cycle of AMERICAN VAMPIRE. We've loved everyone who's joined the AMERICAN VAMPIRE family on fill-ins and on miniseries, but for the final half of the series, the half where everything we've built so far converges and comes crashing together, Rafa and I decided we wanted to do more of the stories the two of us, as a team and co-creators.

And, even though AMERICAN VAMPIRE will be on break, don't worry! There are a bunch of great new series coming your way in 2013. I'll be doing a new limited series – a science-fiction horror epic about the mysteries of the deep – with the amazing Sean Murphy (who did AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST). And my pal Jeff Lemire will be launching a limited series, too – a brilliant science fiction piece called Trillium – which is literally about the last love story in the universe.

So yes, we're taking a break and then we'll be back (in fact, the story that brings us back is already written!), bigger, better, and badder than ever. And as you can tell from hints and clues in issue 34, the best is yet to come. That all of us on AMERICAN VAMPIRE can promise you. Thank you again, from the bottom of our black, twisted hearts.

– Scott Snyder

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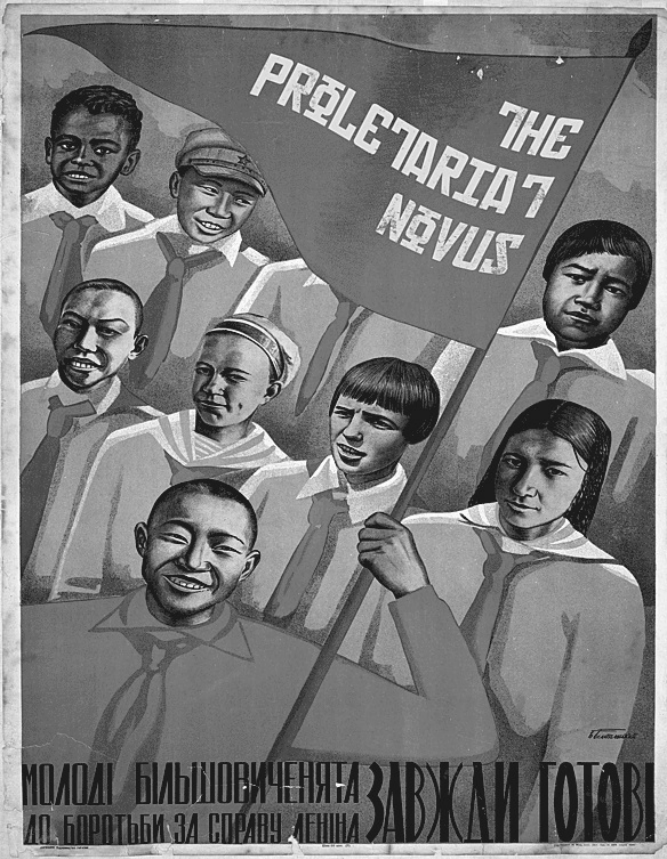
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